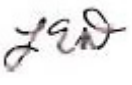State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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JON S. CORZINE
Governor

LUCILLE E. DAVY
Acting Commissioner

August 29, 2006

TO: Chief School Administrators
        Charter Lead School Persons

FROM: Lucille E. Davy
        Acting Commissioner

SUBJECT: New Jersey Student Level Database

The Department of Education is actively working with the Public Consulting Group (PCG) to implement NJSMART, a comprehensive data warehouse, student level data reporting, and unique statewide student identification (SSID) system. Both Governor Corzine and the Legislature have indicated that a statewide student database to support the tracking of student academic outcomes is a crucial need as well as a top priority for New Jersey. The steps required to develop this repository are taking place in several phases over the next twelve months.

NJ Standards Measurement and Resource for Teaching (NJSMART) was initiated several years ago for three primary reasons:

1. New Jersey's public education system must become more evidence-based where progress toward instructional goals are measured and monitored.
2. Major regulatory changes, such as the Federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), require states and districts to collect greater quantities of data to meet increasingly intensive reporting requirements.
3. NJDOE is committed to providing better information to LEAs and other stakeholders, simplifying the burdensome data reporting requirements, and increasing administrative efficiency through the use of technology.

Several important NJSMART initiatives are already occurring concurrently:

- The state assessment data warehouse has been populated with statewide test results back to 1999;
- Abbott districts that have been identified are implementing local datamarts; and
- A unique student identification system is in development.

Each of these initiatives will result in important outcomes for your district:

1. Integrated state assessment data means that your district will have access to assessment reports that will allow you to easily monitor and compare critical performance measures;
2. A local datamart offers the chance to bring your district's varied data sources together in an integrated warehouse, allowing your staff access to linked student data; and
3. Once the SSID is implemented, your district will be able to track students and their performance more effectively over time even as they transfer in and out of your district.

These activities are providing the foundation for a more comprehensive system of data reporting and student performance management. Future phases of the project will be shaped by the efforts and experiences encountered by the pilot Abbott districts currently working with PCG and the State on local datamart implementation.

The Department will be issuing to all districts in the State the requirements for a student level data submission which all districts will be required to fulfill late in 2006. As you are preparing parent information sheets for the opening of the 2006-07 school year, please begin to collect the data that you will be asked to submit later this year. These are the elements that we will be collecting from you for all of your students:

- Local Student Identification Number
- First Name
- Middle Name
- Last Name
- Generation Suffix (if applicable)
- Date of Birth
- Gender
- City, Country of Birth
- County Code of Residence
- District Code of Residence
- Attending District Code
- Attending School Code
- Program Entry Date (referring to "Program" as it applies to the NJ School Register
- Attending School Entry Date
- School Code of Residence

Once all districts submit student level data to NJSMART, the data will be used to establish State-issued unique student identification numbers for all students. Districts will then be required to track, use, and manage this State student ID in addition to any local student identification numbers that are utilized.

In order to assist your district in preparing for this student level data submission, the Department will be hosting information sessions on Thursday, September 28, Friday, September 29, Monday, October 2, and Tuesday, October 3 to explain the NJSMART required data elements, the timing of the required data submission, and the submission process your district will use to fulfill the data request. You will be notified regarding the

locations and times for the sessions. In the meantime, PCG is available to answer questions that you have about the NJSMART initiative and the upcoming student level data submission; PCG can be reached via the toll free number 800-254-0295.

We look forward to working together with your district as we move towards a system that supports more comprehensive student performance management.

LED/dm/CSA Charter Lead Person - NJ Student Level Database

c: Isaac Bryant
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